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Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection Solid Waste Management Unit



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UPDATE ON NEW RECYCLING AND PACKAGING LEGISLATION

The Connecticut General Assembly recently overwhelmingly adopted legislation that further promotes the state's recycling goals and addresses packaging. Briefly, the law places requirements on the state to promote and accommodate recycling markets by increasing state agency purchases of goods made with recycled materials, studying the feasibility of using recycled demolition materials in construction, and encouraging and supporting recycling industries in the state. The Act also requires further study of plastics. Certain plastics must be identified and coded by 1990. The Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) must also further study the environmental impacts of incinerating plastics and other wastes. Finally, certain beverage containers made of both plastic and aluminum or steel are prohibited from sale in Connecticut. Codified as Public Act 88-231, the law has been signed by the governor and becomes effective on October 1, 1988.

Recycled Products Plan Coming

In accordance with the specific requirements of the law, the Department of Administrative Services (DAS) will prepare a plan by October 1, 1989 to increase state purchase of goods made with recycled materials. As part of this plan, the DAS will explore the feasibility of:

- requiring information on recycled waste content and recyclability in bids received,
- establishing minimum goals for the purchase of paper with recycled waste content,
- eliminating current requirements that favor virgin over recycled materials, and
- encouraging the state to use two-sided copies whenever possible.

Recycled Goods Given Price Preference

One very important aspect of this procurement strategy is that the law allows a price preference of up to 10% for the purchase of goods made with recycled materials. In other words, the state may purchase items made with recycled materials, even if they are up to 10% more expensive than goods made from virgin products. All of these provisions will help increase the demand for products made with recycled materials and thus contribute to the expansion of markets for such materials.

Public Act 88-231 also requires other state agencies to study additional methods of promoting the use and processing of recycled

materials in Connecticut. For example, the Department of Transportation (DOT) must report to the Environment Committee by January 15, 1989 on the feasibility of using recycled demolition materials, concrete, and asphalt in construction and other projects. The Department of Economic Development (DED) will play a role in the development of local markets for recyclables by preparing a plan to support and promote Connecticut industries that use recycled materials. The Department of Public Works and other agencies, in renovating real estate, must consider the property's capability to facilitate recycling programs. Finally, all state agencies must comply with the state recycling mandate by developing plans for the separation and collection of required recyclables by 1991. The DEP, DAS, Governor, and Legislative Management Committee must implement white paper recycling programs by 1989, and will serve as pilot projects for statewide implementation of white paper recycling.

In addition to requiring coding for plastic containers, the act bans the N.Y. Seltzer plastic/aluminum bottle, and allows the commissioner to require that packages sold in Connecticut display a symbol to indicate whether the packaging is recyclable or made of recycled materials once uniform symbols are approved by Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, Massachusetts, and Rhode Island.

Finally, the Act allows state grants to municipalities which cannot meet resource recovery commitments only if they cannot recruit other sources of waste, and requires ash reutilization studies.

UPCOMING CONFERENCES

National Solid Wastes Management Association, September 7, 8, and 9 in Boston, MA. Questions or more information at (202) 659-4613.

Biocycle Northeast Conference '88: Recycling/Composting Solid Waste and Sludge. The conference will be held September 14, 15, and 16 in Albany, New York. Call (215) 967-4135 for registration information.

National Recycling Congress, September 28, 29, and 30 in St. Paul, Minnesota. Call (612) 649-5750 for more information.

GAZETTE MONTHLY ONCE AGAIN

The recent staff changes have now been completed and the Garbage Gazette is back on a monthly schedule. Thanks for your patience during the transition.

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